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**BEST
MAGAZINE**
CCAÉ 2011
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GENERATING IDEAS AND CONNECTIONS

OLIVER'S: AN
UNLIKELY
LAUNCH PAD
FOR POLITICOS

CU MEGA-MIX
A TRIBUTE TO
CAMPUS LIFE
IN SONG

TAKE OFF, EH?
PROFILING SOME
REALLY RADICAL
SABBATICALS



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COULD REVOLUTIONIZE
THE WAY PEOPLE
COMMUNICATE AND DO
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Keane, Lloyd K.

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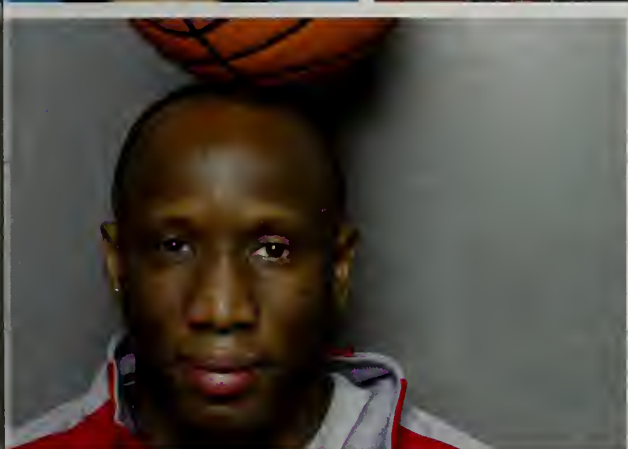
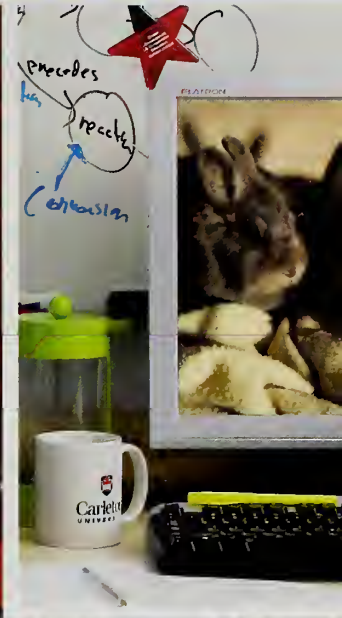
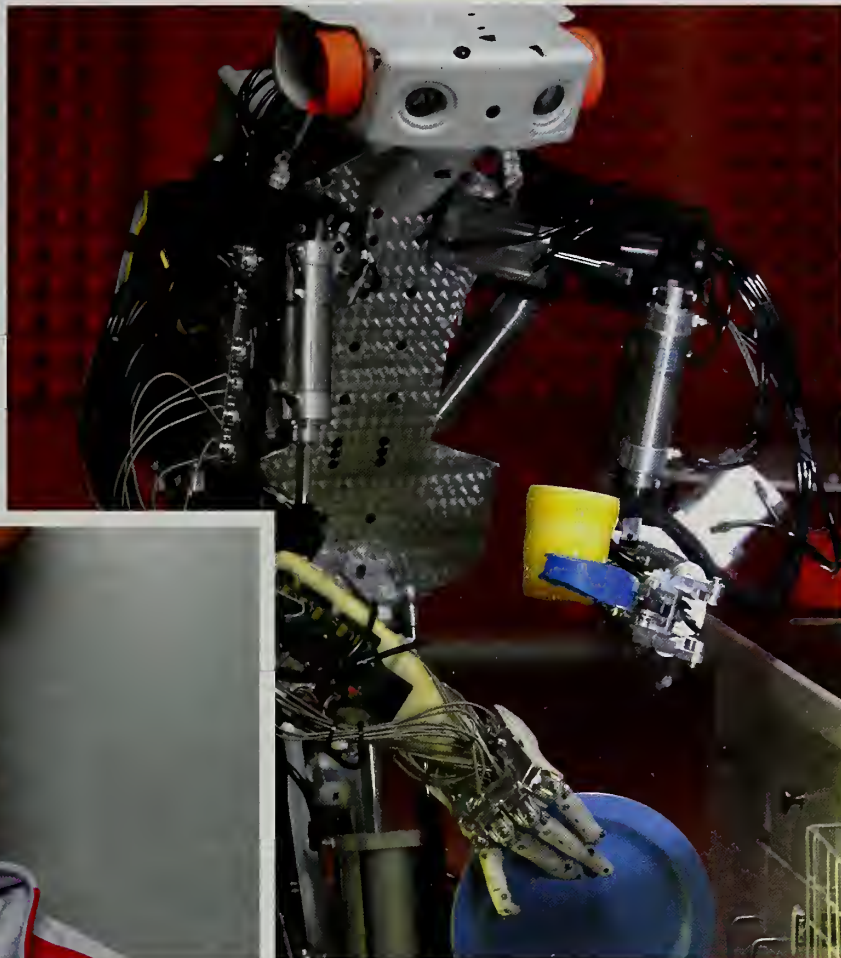


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Dear Alumni,

As I write you, the halls and tunnels have a special, quiet hush as students hasten from library to exams with a possible stop for sustenance at Rooster's or Mike's.



Already on the horizon lie plans for the future and graduation. Do you recall the bittersweetness of the last essay, the last exam? You were at once relieved that you had reached that milestone, excited about unknown possibilities, a bit apprehensive about facing the "real world" and sad about leaving friends, faculty and staff. We all had that special professor who truly cared for us, the one who gave the most brilliant lectures, the one whose socks rarely matched, and even the one whose tone of voice and inflection managed, despite an incredibly vast knowledge base, to have the most incredible soporific effect, requiring an extra coffee before class.

Suddenly, amidst moving, job searching, visiting friends and goodbyes, graduation arrived. There you were, at last going to receive your diploma. A solemn and proud moment indeed! And the sole thoughts on your mind were: let me not stumble on the stage; let me just get off that stage. (Nobody in recent history has, I assure you, fallen on this august occasion. Of course, there is the occasional soul practicing to be an absent-minded professor with an inside-out robe and the tardy soul who did not have time to repair the ravages of a bad hair day.)

So many hands to shake. . . So many faces filled with hope. . . So much learning in those minds. . . So many possibilities for each individual and the world.

Graduation is indeed a fine day, filled with promise for the future, joy in celebrating hard work and accomplishments, sober reality as one considers the years ahead, the challenges and the responsibilities one has to oneself, one's family and professors, Canada and the world. To this we add just a tad of levity, for there is always someone who makes us smile as we step, without faltering, into the adventure of tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,
Roseann O'Reilly Runte
President and Vice-Chancellor



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Bringing Alumni Together

That's me and designer Richard Bootsma reviewing layouts while in mid-production of *Carleton University Magazine*. Creating the magazine is about making hundreds of connections. It happens when the magazine's writers discover a graduate who is making news, which allows us to present forward-looking stories that tee up with current affairs. It happens when researchers comb through the archives to reflect upon Carleton's history, which allows us to present stories that look back.

Our thinking is that an astute combination of news and nostalgia will keep our alumni connected to the school and to one other. We hope to reinforce the intellectual rigour you gained at Carleton through the storytelling on these pages. That's what's behind the line "Generating Ideas and Connections," our summary tag that appears on the cover of this issue for the first time. It sounds simple, but generating that line took a lot of heads. Thanks for that goes to the members of our advisory committee, whose names appear in the masthead at right.

They deserve an extra pat on the back this time because they, along with me and Bootsma, were recipients of a bronze award for Best Magazine from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education.

The CCAE's Prix d'Excellence is an annual recognition of outstanding work from alumni shops across the country. It was the first year for which we were eligible under this magazine's new editorial team. To be named best, out of the gate, is particularly rewarding. Special thanks also go out to Roger Bird, BAHons/61; Lois Casselman; Luther Caverly; Ryan Davies; Paul Gessell; Patrick Langston, MA/79; and David McDonald, BJ/69. Their continued curiosity and unmatched brilliance were hugely influential in the turnaround.

On the topic of making connections, a grad-to-grad link was made between Trevor Blackwell, BEng/92, a creator of robots, and Tim Hornyak, MJ/97, who studies them. Hornyak makes a compelling case for the relevance, complexity and dependency on robots in his 2006 book, *Loving the Machine: The Art and Science of Japanese Robots*. You'll never think of those hunks of machinery the same way after reading his work, which touches on history, animism and cultural traits. He's a deft writer whose sparse sentences carry a cargo load of ideas. He revisits robot culture with a profile on Blackwell, whose company, Anybots, is a leader in the telepresence field. It's a new take on the concept of face time, starting on page 29.

Fateema Sayani, BJ/01, Editor

Photo: Luther Caverly

NEW PROGRAMS AT SPROTT!

The Sprott School of Business is proud to announce new programs for Fall 2011.

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NOT YOUR TYPICAL READING WEEK



At Carleton University, we believe an education can also be a life-changing experience. Since 2006, our Alternative Spring Break program has sent hundreds of our students on local, national and international community service learning projects. While there, they're learning about social justice, human rights, environmentalism and the global community. It's just one more example of our dedication to an anything but textbook education. As it turns out, our classrooms are not just confined to our campus.

Chances are, you had a life-changing experience while at Carleton. You may know someone who is thinking of applying to university. If so, why not encourage them to apply to Carleton for an educational experience that's anything but textbook?

carleton.ca/admissions/spreadtheword/

ANYTHING BUT TEXTBOOK



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With great interest, I have read the short item in the last edition of *Carleton University Magazine*, titled 'Strike Up the Band—Again,' submitted by Ross Thomson, BSc/54. I particularly enjoyed the marvellous photo of **the band on the old First Avenue campus**. My brother was a member of that band. — Carl Plet, BCom/60

LET'S BRING BACK THE BAND

Following receipt of the Winter issue, I had a sudden burst of inspiration in responding to the remarks by Ross Thomson, BSc/54, on the Carleton band of yore. Hopefully its revival might be further encouraged.

As another proud member of the band during the early 1950s, I was delighted to read about one of Carleton's most distinctive contributions during its development years. Ross was its ably inspired director, and he kept it moving as a major source of stimulus and enjoyment of so many school activities. The band's zestful performance not only manifested itself in many football and basketball games

a picture of a city march from a past football event. Reflection on the past serves not only to revive memorable and happy events but also as a beacon of inspiration in bringing them into being within a modern context. Need I say more in bolstering Ross's enthusiastic suggestion to consider re-establishing such a band in bringing about a return of Raven football and other university fevers?

Douglas Sirrs, BA/53, BJ/54

UNDERGROUND ESCAPE

Reading your story about Carleton University's tunnel system in the Winter issue made me remember that I took part in a tunnel escapade in the early 1960s. It involved a duel: the two antagonists took off down the tunnel incline in swivel chairs, and fate decided the winner. I also remember typing my English papers on the typewriter in the Carleton newspaper office, which was off the tunnel in those days.

Virginia Lambe Nixon, BA/62

FINDING THE BEST SOURCES

The "Dry Run" article in the Winter issue was timely and important. The comment that Ontario has taken action on the issue through the Clean Water Act and resultant Source Water Protection committees should be critically qualified. None of the actions



resulting from the Walkerton tragedy have dealt with water at its sources. Water sources are groundwater—which this article does discuss and for which Ontario almost completely lacks information—and sources of surface water, which are springs, creeks, rivers and lakes. Many in Ontario depend on these as sources of household water. Source Water Protection in Ontario addresses only drinking water for humans from taps and from wells. It does nothing to protect our sources of water in watersheds or in landscapes.

Gray Merriam,
professor emeritus

[illegible]

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but also in more bizarre circumstances such as leading a night-time frosh week pyjama parade through downtown Ottawa.

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◀ For more information, visit us online at carleton.ca/alumni or call the alumni office at 1-866-CU-PROUD (287-7683) ▶



Richard Van Loon, BSC/61, MA/65, LLD/09, winner of the 2011 Founders Award. Dr. Van Loon was the 10th president of Carleton University (1996-2005) and the first Carleton graduate to serve in that office. He oversaw a time of transformation, refocusing Carleton on its core academic strengths, restoring its financial health and renewing campus in preparation for Ontario's double cohort. His connection has strengthened since retirement; today he is a generous financial supporter, a teacher and lecturer, and a proud ambassador for his alma mater.

Lost, then found!

Looking for a long-lost Carleton friend? Can't find your old classmates?

To help you stay in touch, we are preparing a new Carleton University Alumni Directory—a handy index of names and addresses from alumni around the world. Once it's complete, you and your friends will be able to find each other—and we'll be able to send you the latest Carleton info, including new issues of *Carleton University Magazine*.

Help us make sure the directory is complete and accurate. In the next few weeks, you'll get an email or letter from Harris Connect*, our research partner. Please take a moment to respond and verify your information—and help your old friends find you too.

For more information about this project, please email the Department of University Advancement: advancement@carleton.ca.

*Harris Connect is a trusted partner of Carleton University. Harris Connect's commitment to protecting the privacy and ensuring the integrity of the information collected for the project is reflected in their privacy policy online at www.harrisconnect.com/privacy.html



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Conventional Wisdom

The landmark structure overlooking the historic Rideau Canal was designed by Ritchard Brisbin, BArch/81, above, a principal with BBB Architects (Ottawa, Toronto, New York City). With its undulating glass surface, it's been described as anything from a giant disco ball to a glass spaceship—no matter your perspective, you'll react to the spectacular new Ottawa Convention Centre

WRITTEN BY PATRICK LANGSTON, MA/79
PORTRAIT BY LUTHER CAVERLY

What was the biggest challenge in designing the Ottawa Convention Centre?

Resistance to change. We normally try to reconcile a building with its context, but in this instance, we couldn't find much meritorious in our neighbours. And the building had huge obligations to redefine the convention centre's brand and its profile on the canal. Some authorities had reticence about the modernity of the building. We felt that the modernity wouldn't clash with the silhouette of Parliament (Hill) or the Château (Laurier) but actually make their language even more legible.

Was there a time during construction when you thought: This is not what I envisaged?

When the metal support lattice for the glass was going up, (it) was so prevalent that I thought we had created a giant golf ball. Fortunately, as the glazing went on, that disappeared.

What do you hope convention-goers will take away from the OCC?

We want the delegate experience to be about connecting with Ottawa. Hopefully the building provides indelible panoramas of our city and tells stories about our history with its (visual) references to logging, canal barges, tulips and so on.

Does the OCC mark a new era in Ottawa architecture?

I don't think so—or not in such a linear fashion. It does change the way the world sees Ottawa a little bit and the way we see ourselves. Hopefully, when that happens, we start to be more aware of the value and impact of good design and, reciprocally, that of bad design.

What is your favourite building in Ottawa?

Arthur Erickson's Bank of Canada. It is truly a study in understatement. Nearly 40 years after completion, it is still fresh and modern, delicate in its detailing with a chamfered roofline, patinated copper and green slate.

If you were addressing a class of graduating architects, what would your message be?

To ensure that they are passionate about their chosen profession. If you enter into this business for money or celebrity, the odds are against you. If you love the idea of qualitatively changing the cities you work in, you'll never begrudge your drive into work each morning. [OU](#)



Photo: Brent Gervais



In the Mix

WRITTEN BY JOEL CRARY, BAHONS/06

▶ ALL THE TREES OF THE FIELD WILL CLAP THEIR HANDS, SUFJAN STEVENS

A liberal arts education fashions a radar for coincidence. The study of literature particularly demands that connections be made between the universal and the personal, sometimes so much that distinguishing one from the other becomes impossible. To get into the specifics of how Sufjan Stevens' song fits into my own grander scheme misses the point. Some songs carry a quality that shrinks the world, making it easier to figure out how we're connected to it. Milan Kundera put it best in a novel I studied in first year: "It is right to chide man for being blind to such coincidences in his daily life. For he thereby deprives his life of a dimension of beauty."

▶ CORAL FANG, THE DISTILLERS

The first essay I submitted at Carleton was on punk rock, built around a thesis I had trouble hammering out. Students had been encouraged to make their submissions unique, so I included a mix tape as part of mine, discovering the Distillers in the process. I ended up giving that essay to a girl I was trying to impress. Not sure what I was thinking, since the essay got only a C.

School spirit manifests itself in many ways, from cheering on the home team (loud and proud) to more intimate expressions such as sporting your "I Heart Carleton" pin (quiet and proud). Each is an expressive booster. For one alum, charting his campus experience was best done in song. The soundtrack to an undergraduate life

► YOU CAN'T SIT DOWN, THE DOVELLS

On Sunday nights in fourth year, Babylon on Bank Street offered Ottawa's version of Mod Club, a cross-Canada nightclub venture carved from the well-dressed yet rebellious image belonging to 1960s disenchanted London youth. The DJs spun classic R&B and British rock until the wee hours, demanding that sleep be sacrificed to the low cost of a free cover and a mad dash to make the last 95 bus back to Nepean. Songs from the night before rang in my head during Monday-morning lectures on Gothic literature in Dunton Tower as involuntary yawns expressed longing for the weekend.

► ELEVATOR LOVE LETTER, STARS

The English Literary Society held its meetings on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower. Most were devoted to critiques of student writing. A girl and I both had chunks of fiction in our bags when we boarded the elevator one evening. She struck up a conversation. The next morning I messaged the entire society mailing list to figure out her email address, but we ended up meeting again through serendipity, which is the best kind of way to meet someone at university. Chance encounters are the stuff of big, meaningful lives.

► RASPUTIN, BONEY M

During fourth year, I worked as an editor for *In/ Words*, Carleton's literary magazine. We brought open mic nights to the Avant-Garde Bar on Bessner Street, owned and operated by hospitable Russian immigrant Alex Yugin. Young people from Ottawa's lit community would come out to read, perform and posture through a 50-watt amplifier. Between sets, Alex would project music videos at a screen on the stage. *Rasputin* was in regular rotation. Those songs fuelled the dreams of the heartbroken poets waiting for the right words to set them free.

► WHILE I'M YOUNG, BUCK 65

If you load Buck 65's *Synesthesia* album and press play on *Skill Saw* just as your foot hits the floor at the base of the MacOdrum tunnel staircase, you'll slow your pace to make sure *While I'm Young* ends just as you reach the St. Patrick tunnel exit on the other side of campus. Rich Terfry's intricate lyrics, beat-up-Buick delivery and oddball sampling tendencies came on like brain Gatorade, replenishing the energy spent



devouring texts in the library and laying the hip-hop groundwork for new analytical approaches. Making the affliction of perpetual over-thinking appear controllable, he instilled a drive to write. Listening to Buck 65 was a form of weightlifting.

► THE BIG PICTURE, BRIGHT EYES

I bought my first iPod at the Carleton bookstore. The digital music revolution was in full swing by the time I came to university. Being a music listener during that time meant having to get used to the unprecedented access to artists from every corner of the globe. Omaha's Bright Eyes came storming through coaxial with sprawling lyrics expressing the anxieties of information overload. *Lifted* made for introspective listening while waiting in line to fill out OSAP forms at Robertson Hall. And at a length of just over 73 minutes, it would get you halfway there.

► COAST TO COAST, ELLIOTT SMITH

Elliott Smith died during my second year at Carleton, and his final record was released nearly a year later to the day. Why do I sharply recall listening to *Coast to Coast* in the tunnels on a walk to Dunton Tower from the print office in Robertson Hall? Our memories are made up of moments when we forget ourselves and cut out the self-analysis prompted by the university environment. So many of the authors and artists studied in the course of obtaining a BA take on the attractive sheen of doomed heroes. The right song at the right time can serve as a reminder of how tragic and beautiful the world can be.

Name That Tune: Inspired to share your own soundtrack? Send us your CU memories: magazine_editor@carleton.ca



TAPPING INTO A TRADITION

Oliver's Pub, shown in this 1989 file photo, has long been part of the campus experience. During the recent federal election, the pub made headlines by association. It was the workplace of an upstart politician who didn't appear to have a flying chance of winning her Quebec riding. When the ballots were counted, the rookie had made it to the finish line. Could there be something in the water at Oliver's?

Something's Brewing at Oliver's

WRITTEN BY ROB THOMAS, BA/99, MJ/06

Pub gains political notoriety after recent election

Oliver's pub has attracted its share of media attention over the years, but the proverbial pint glass has hardly been an overflowing one. There have been student protests, liquor licence violations and the occasional bar brawl, but little that compares to the brouhaha generated by the election of former Oliver's assistant manager Ruth Ellen Brousseau to the House of Commons. Brousseau made national headlines when *The Globe and Mail* discovered she had vacationed in Las Vegas for part of her uneventful campaign to represent the Quebec riding of Berthier-Maskinongé.

Blake Brooks, BAHons/08, an interim manager at Oliver's, says that at the height of the controversy, reporters were calling the pub every 20 minutes or so and staff turned off the ringers on the phone. "You're at work and all these calls are coming in," he explains. "And you *know* what they are about."

Imagine their surprise when the 27-year-old was elected with nearly 40 percent of the vote. Brousseau speaks little French and had never visited the largely francophone riding.

Brooks says Oliver's has no plans to name a drink for its famous alumna. "Nothing has come up yet," he says. "I think maybe everyone is still in shock."

Oliver's might be better known for inexpensive draft, air hockey and its Thursday-night DJ party, but Brousseau isn't the first politico to put in time there. Gordon Brown, BAHons/83, is the Conservative MP for Leeds-Grenville. He never worked the bar, but he did share more than a few pints with his buddies Warren Kinsella, BJ/84; Jim Watson, BA/83; Bob Richardson, BAHons/85; and James Villeneuve, BA/85.

"I wouldn't say [Oliver's] was the launching pad of my political career, but there was a lot of spirited political discussion when the gang got together," Brown says.

All four have been involved in politics with the Liberals or Conservatives. Kinsella is a well-known Liberal spin doctor. Watson is the mayor of Ottawa and a former Ontario cabinet minister with the McGuinty Liberals.

Brown, who is also a hotel owner and restaurateur, calls Brousseau's win "a bit extraordinary" but has encouraging words for the rookie. "I know how hard it is serving the public," he says. "Working in the hospitality industry is certainly good preparation for being an MP, and I'm sure she'll do a great job."

Brousseau isn't the only MP with a Carleton connection. She joins Conservatives Paul Calandra, BA/08; Barry Devolin, BA/86; Scott Reid, BAHons/85; New Democrats Niki Ashton, MA/06; Robert Chisholm, MA/89; Paul Dewar, BA/85; Rathika Sitsabaiesan, BCom/06; and Liberal Party MP and former Carleton chancellor Marc Garneau. ☐

SURPRISE DISCOVERY

Carleton neuroscientist Alfonso Abizaid was conducting research on depression while he was a scientist at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. When members of his team were testing a drug that works on a part of the brain that is sensitive to nicotine, they noticed that the mice they used in tests were losing weight. This was a big discovery because, while it is well known that nicotine works on the brain to decrease appetite, the precise hows, whys and wherefores of its effect on specific parts of the brain were unknown.

Since coming to Carleton, Abizaid has expanded upon that finding. He and his team are now working on an idea that may eventually lead to a treatment for morbid obesity by using nicotine in a non-toxic way, without activating its addictive effects, to stimulate metabolism. The study was detailed in the June issue of the journal *Science*.

A NEW OUTLOOK

Carleton's new five-floor River Building, opening this fall beside the Steacie Building, will house the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, the School of Journalism and Communication, and other programs.

The building will have a variety of features, including a three-storey glass atrium overlooking the Rideau—it's not like the campus you might remember. It considers all aspects of the student experience: a rooftop garden with bench seating and a multi-storey green wall in the atrium add scenic consideration to the study environment.

It's part of a wider building buzz at universities across Canada. A May article in *University Affairs* magazine noted that campus residences are changing too. The University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, has loft-style private rooms with private bathrooms. The University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, is constructing a 400-bed suite-style residence with granite countertops in the kitchens.

Thought Pattern

A collection of Carleton-led ideas, research, theories, did-you-knows and big pictures. Follow our "genius feed" on Twitter for more daily sparks from researchers and thinkers at Carleton University

A PERFECT 10

Like the old saw about your money being safer under the mattress than in the bank, Carleton computer science researcher Paul C. Van Oorschot says sometimes a good old-fashioned handwritten list might be the best way to keep track of your passwords.

"I don't use a password manager. I write my passwords down on paper, slightly obfuscated," he told a *New York Times* reporter in June, in an article on hacking. The article suggested that passwords with 10 characters are harder to hack since computer programs that spit out 100 billion guesses per second would take that much longer to go through every possible combination than if for seven-character passwords.

It's disconcerting to know that many companies keep a list of master passwords in unencrypted, plain text form. That's how hacker group LulzSec accessed Sony's servers earlier this year, gathering the names, home addresses and passwords for more than one million customers.

SMARTS, BOTTLED!

When Vankleek Hill, Ont., micro-brewers Beau's All Natural Beer needed a Latin slogan to complement their newly developed coat of arms, they approached the College of Humanities for help.

Jordan Bamforth, the brewer's creative director, wanted something accurate, so online translators were out of the question. Bamforth found his source in an associate professor of Greek and Roman Studies, Josh Beer. (Talk about living up to your name.) There were some first draft ideas, but it was *Pura, naturalis, bona* (pure, natural, good) that made the final cut. Here's to the study of classics.

twitter.com/carletonalumni

ORDER ON THE COURT

HIS NO-NONSENSE, NOSE-TO-THE-GRINDSTONE PHILOSOPHY SEEMINGLY RUNS AT CROSS-PURPOSES WITH HIS FLAIR FOR COURT-SIDE DRAMATICS. UNDERSTANDING THE ANTE—AND THE ANTICS—OF TAFFE CHARLES, THE COACH WHO BROUGHT RAVENS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OUT OF A SLUMP

STORY BY PAUL GESSELL
PORTRAIT BY TONY FOUHSE





YOU REALIZE YOU CAN REALLY BE A ROLE MODEL TO THESE GIRLS

Coach Taffe Charles, BA/94, complains, only half in jest, that some folks attending Ravens women's basketball games spend too much time watching him. No surprise. Mere seconds before the opening buzzer, he does a Superman-quick change of clothes from baggy sweats to a debonair suit and then never sits still.

Charles is as animated as the women on the floor of the Ravens' Nest. During arguments with the referees, he shouts and flaps his arms to show them, his team and its opponents, just who is boss. He stands by the bench, practically vibrating, hollering at his players: "Motion! Motion!" He scowls at errors and, in the wake of a really bad Ravens screw-up, has been known to do a solo instant replay, angrily dribbling an imaginary ball in front of the bench, bending almost double to elude an imaginary opponent and then passing said ball to an imaginary teammate.

That's how he shows the team what went wrong, how it could have been better and what he thinks about it all. It's quite a show. "I kind of wear my emotions on my sleeve," Charles says, in a grand understatement.

The arrival of Charles as the Ravens women's head coach in 2007 made all the action—on the court and on the sidelines—considerably more interesting. Indeed, Charles has turned the Carleton women's basketball team from perennial also-rans into major contenders. This year, for the first time ever, the women's team reached the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national finals in Windsor. The Ravens were eliminated after two successive losses—but just getting to Windsor was something of a miracle. The Carleton women were a wild-card pick for the nationals. That means they were invited because of a stellar performance throughout the year, even though they lost their last qualifying game 64-59 against St. Francis Xavier X-Women.

That loss was a bitter disappointment. At the game-over buzzer, the players retreated to their bench. No words or glances were exchanged between Charles and the team. The coach simply walked, eyes downcast, past the lineup of gloomy athletes toward a garbage can to discard a wad of gum. Later, Charles

spoke bluntly, as he tends to do after a loss. "The players just weren't at their best. The implication is always that they could have done better; they should have done better." Don't expect excuses from this coach, because the goal for Taffe Charles is to develop a team with both the skill and the drive to win.

Charles turns 40 in July. Half the life of this Ottawa native and married father of a four-year-old girl has been associated with Carleton. As a student, he studied history and geography, and for five years, he played Ravens basketball, scoring 2,437 points for a 17.4 career average, the third best in the history of the men's team. He was named an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) all-star in 1992, 1993 and 1994. He recently stopped playing recreational basketball, claiming he is getting too slow. But he still plays Monday-night hockey with pals.

At one time, the son of St. Lucian immigrants had thought of becoming a teacher. Instead, he pursued a career in sales after graduation, which seemed like a good fit for a man with a friendly, outgoing personality and the gift of gab. But being a salesman was just a job; sports remained his real passion. Charles kept his hand in basketball, first as assistant coach for the women's team from 1995 to 1998, then as assistant men's coach for nine years.

Charles helped the men win five CIS championships. His previous years with the women were very different. At one point, they won only one game out of 53. Charles always felt the women could do better. He had applied for the women's head coach position in 2004 and lost out, but then he landed the job when Christie Lauzon left in 2007. "I really thought I could add something," he says. "I thought I could do something a little bit differently. I thought there was room for opportunity."

Charles was right: the women could do better. In 2009-2010, Charles was named OUA coach of the year after the Ravens topped the standings in regular-season play. That year the team reached the east division finals for the first time ever but, in the end, lost to crosstown rivals, the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees. Then this

past season, Charles led the team into the nationals for the first time ever, while the Gee-Gees were sidelined.

Gee-Gees' coach, Andy Sparks, says the Ravens have been "equal" to his women in the past few years. This year the Ravens had the advantage of more-seasoned players. "He has an experienced group, and experience certainly pays off," says Sparks. Players such as Alyson Bush, Courtney Smith, Ashleigh Cleary and Bailey Lomas are in their third or fourth year with the team. They know by now what the coach wants and how

to achieve it. Charles particularly lavishes praise on Bush, a 5'7" guard. Sports writers quote him as saying Bush is the team's key player: "When she plays well, we win. That's the bottom line."

Part of the Ravens' success has been that Charles has spent the past four years recruiting, retaining and improving players like Bush. Says Sparks, "He's getting players that buy in and work hard with his system." But there's something more than the players' talent and the coach's technical know-how. It's called attitude. It's building a team that wants to win and believes it should win. "What they do now," says Sparks, "is compete." It wasn't always that way. "One of the things we've been really successful in is having a different attitude," says Charles. "If you put the work in and put the time into it and really want to do it, you can win."

Relations between Charles and the players have had their bumps. Any new coach trying to shake things up can leave players feeling off balance and confused. Charles was accustomed to using sarcasm to make a point, especially when criticizing a player.



CHARLES IN CHARGE

Coach Taffe Charles at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa during the 2010 Capital Hoops Classic. Since he took over the helm of the Ravens women's basketball team, he has emphasized a can-do attitude. "If you put the work in and really want to do it, you can win." Sports has always been his passion. The Carleton graduate brings to the court showmanship, a gift of gab and a drive to win.

CHARLES SCOWLS AT ERRORS AND, IN THE WAKE OF A REALLY BAD SCREW-UP, HAS BEEN KNOWN TO DO A SOLO INSTANT REPLAY, ANGRILY DRIBBLING AN IMAGINARY BALL IN FRONT OF THE BENCH, BENDING TO ELUDE AN IMAGINARY OPPONENT AND THEN PASSING SAID BALL TO AN IMAGINARY TEAMMATE



The tactic had seemed to work with the men's team, but not with the women. "I learned not to be sarcastic," he says. "As one of the girls told me: 'Just tell me what to do. You don't have to put it any other way. If you want me to do this, just tell me to do this.'"

Generally, the team gives Charles good reviews. Bush was quoted on the Ravens website as saying she loves playing for Charles. "He always pushes us to reach levels we never thought existed," Bush says. "He demands the best from us and is constantly pushing us to reach our goals." Cleary, a 5'11" forward, told the website that Charles has shaped her into the athlete she is today. "For some players, the coaching style takes some getting used to, but once you are in the swing of things, it comes as second nature," she says. "[Charles] lets you know what he expects, so you and your team know what to expect from each other."

Charles definitely expects his players to practise efficient time management. Students generally have 15 hours of class a week. That leaves plenty of time for studying and for basketball, he says, but only if a student does not fritter away her time with too much socializing.

Being coach also means counselling students in areas of their life beyond basketball. He doesn't want anyone on the team distracted by home life, relationship troubles or academic problems. Charles recalls an 18-year-old player approaching him during his first year of coaching to discuss school, basketball and life in general. "You're like my dad," the student said. That remark really hit Charles. "I don't try to get involved in every situation," he says. "Some people more freely tell me stuff than others. But at the same time, you realize you can really be a role model, a father figure, to these girls. It's quite a big responsibility."

There's considerable self-interest in helping players through personal problems. A player who quits because of such issues means one more player Charles has to recruit and train. Counselling a troubled player tends to take less time than replacing her. "So make sure they're doing well in school," says Charles. "If they're not doing well in school, they probably are not going to be playing basketball."

A group of well-adjusted players is necessary to build a winning team. And it takes a winning team to build respect in the community so that the team can attract more talent and sponsors over the long term. "You're always trying to build respect," says Charles. "We've done that in a short period of time. Now we're in a situation where they have to take us seriously." If it all comes together, Ravens spectators will increasingly be keeping their eyes on the players—not the coach. ☐

PARTING SHOTS

Eager to step back from teaching and administrative work for a spell, these professors will get back into the thick of their research, pursuing intellectual passions and ways of bettering the world, as well as the mind. Before leaving on sabbatical, four academics let us into their offices to document their big-picture pursuits in words and tableaux



WRITTEN BY PATRICK LANGSTON, MA/79 | PHOTOS BY LUTHER CAVERLY



Digging Into Medicine's Statistical Darkness

Mining the internet for medical info could allow for precision prescribing

W

hile a graduate student minds his house, his fish and his two rabbits, Michel Dumontier, above, will be hither and

yon investigating state-of-the-art text mining and natural language processing technologies, starting in July. The ultimate goal: to develop a computational platform for personalized medicine. It will integrate clinical and life-science data to reduce the incidence of side effects and improve the health of Canadians.

"Currently, a doctor prescribes medicine based on what works for most people," explains Dumontier, an associate professor in the department of biology and the school of computer science. "By considering an individual's

genetic makeup—in addition to traditional physiological signs and reported symptoms—we can improve the effectiveness of health care today."

Enter the semantic web. Anybody can use the internet to share, publish, integrate and query their data. By converting text meant for human consumption into statements that can be interpreted by machines, it becomes possible to ask and answer sophisticated questions, as opposed to simply finding documents that contain the keywords you used (à la Google). Dumontier hopes the semantic web will create a powerful medium for personalized medicine by automatically integrating the data produced by patients, health-care organizations and pharmaceutical companies. In this way, patients, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and administrators could query up-to-date information about patients, prescriptions, side effects and recovery times, all of which would provide new information about how best to treat individual patients.

Dumontier plans to consult with natural language experts and others at Cambridge University and the European Bioinformatics Institute, both

in England. He'll get up to speed on formalizing mathematical expressions to work the software with Leo Ferres at the University of Concepción in Chile. At Stanford University in California, he'll work with members of the National Center for Biomedical Ontology on developing an integrated platform for sharing information on Alzheimer's research.

He has also planned a jaunt through Southeast Asia and India, mostly "for fun" but including a visit to the Indian Institutes of Technology. When he returns next year, he and his grad students will start applying what he learned to develop systems toward the treatment of disease for patients. "I can't tell you how excited I am to have entire days to focus. Everything's been in 20- and 30-minute blocks for the past few years. Sometimes I think I have attention deficit as a result." ☐

The notes on the board concern a particular gene called HIF-1 (hypoxia inducible factor 1), for which an increased understanding may lead to new ways of treating heart attacks and strokes. The screensaver shows Dumontier's pets: Storm, left, is a lionhead rabbit, so named for its mane. Her companion, Killer, is half lop and half angora.

biology

Real Data

slowly

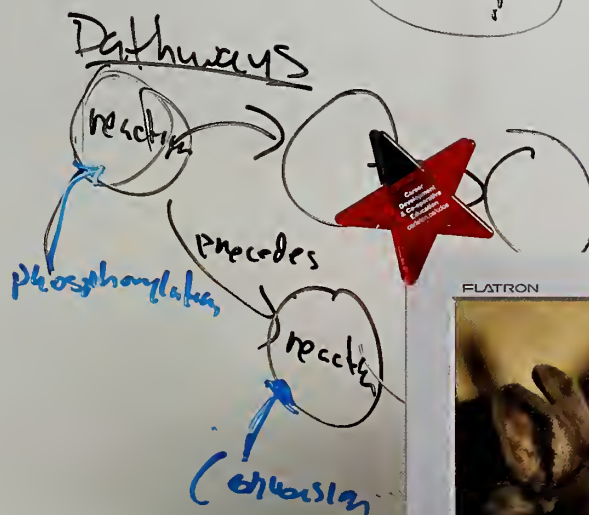
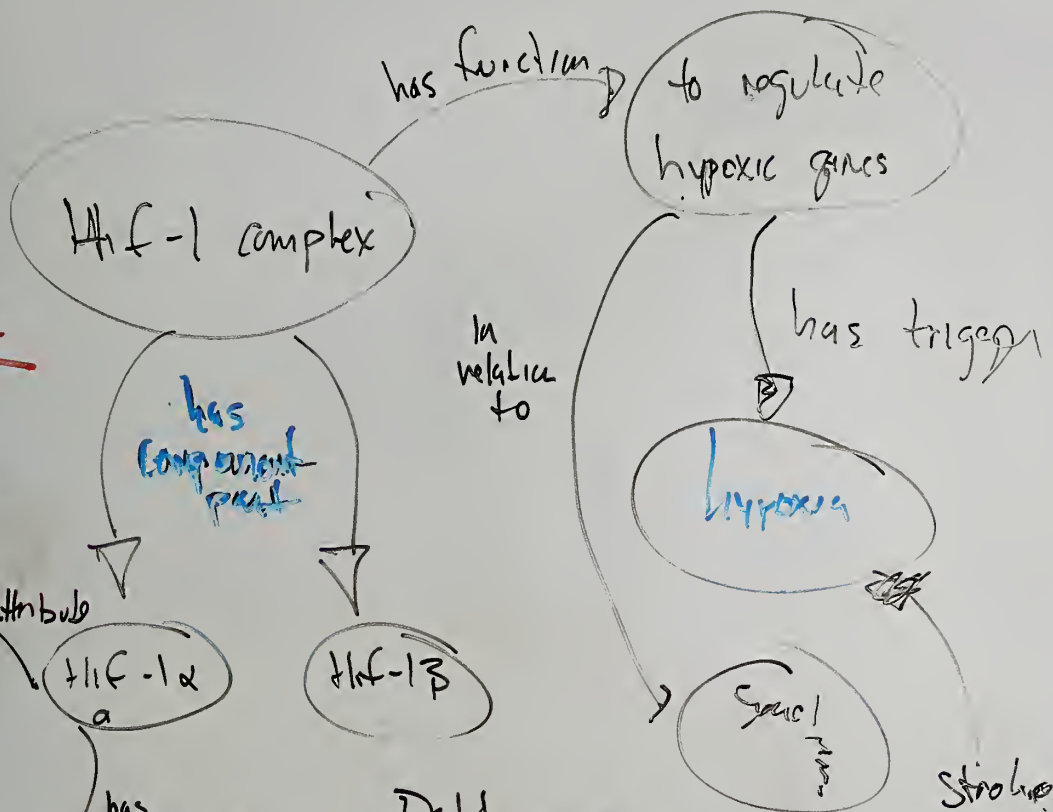
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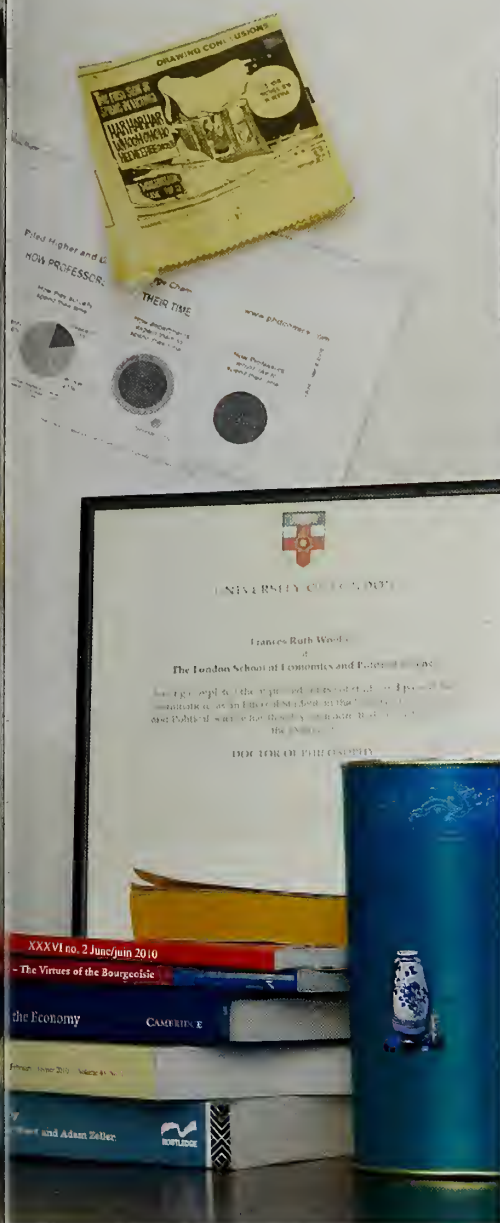
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Good Looks Improve the Books

Economics professor looks beyond just numbers for the real scoop



Chalk it up to changing habits inside universities. Scholarly achievement seems to have ties to appearance, according to findings in a paper co-written by Frances Woolley, right. The economist recently returned from sabbatical. Titles in her office cover queer economics and Canadian public policy, along with the interest-piquing book *The Vices of Economists—The Virtues of the Bourgeoisie*. Faded, yellowed comics poke fun at academic life.

Hot profs and blogging are just a couple of the items that occupied economist Frances Woolley's sabbatical last year. Physically attractive professors

are the subject of "Hot or not: How appearance affects earnings and productivity in academia," a paper she co-wrote with Anindya Sen from the department of economics at the University of Waterloo and Marcel Cristian-Voia, in her own department.

The trio examined the effect of a professor's appearance, as rated by students, on his or her salary. They also looked at the impact of appearance on teaching quality and research productivity. The study used rankings at ratemyprofessors.com, a popular site where students rate instructors on clarity of teaching and other indices including, well, hotness.

The findings? Hotness—which includes physical appearance, voice and intangibles like interpersonal skills—means, for some, a significant earnings premium. There's also a strong relationship between hotness and teaching productivity but a much weaker relationship with research productivity. "The findings aren't obvious, because in the academic world, it's assumed that it's smarts that count," says Woolley.

During her sabbatical, Woolley also continued work on a paper with the working title "Sexual identity and the marriage premium," with co-authors Amélie Lafrance, BAHons/06, of Statistics Canada and Casey Warman, BAHons/99, MA/00, PhD/06, from the economics department at Queen's University in Kingston. The paper explores the effects of marriage and cohabitation on hours worked and full-time earnings of gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual individuals. The authors found that the effects of marriage and cohabitation vary widely according to gender preferences.

Their conclusion: "Caution should be employed when generalizing results based on studies of cohabiting gay and lesbian couples to the entire non-heterosexual population."

She also researched the connections between household bargaining—the negotiations between household members that lead to household decisions—and saving for retirement. The study is being released by Human Resources Development Canada, so she can't reveal the results yet. However, "There are quite large savings differences, depending on who controls the savings."

All this was part of Woolley's sabbatical plan. The surprise was the blogging on economics and policy she wound up doing for *The Globe and Mail*. "I wouldn't have had time to do this normally. It's really exciting. Students say, 'Oh, did you see that blog in the *Globe* about income splitting? That was my prof.' It's great for the pride of the university." □





Looking Deep Into Biodata

A triple-pronged research program aims to find diseases in the making

Three fascinating biomedical informatics projects are on James Green's sabbatical plate. One project could enhance the analysis of tissue samples through mass spectrometry—which can reveal a protein's mass, composition and chemical structure—using software to link data collection with data analysis. If all goes well, data collection will be automatically triggered and guided as analysis takes place, leading to more information from the same experiment and better identification of novel protein biomarkers for diseases.

Green, above, an associate professor in the department of systems and computer engineering, will collaborate with Carleton's Michel Dumontier in the school of computer science and

Jeffrey C. Smith in the department of chemistry. As well, once his sabbatical begins in July, he'll spend a couple of weeks at the school of computing science at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

In a second project, Green will use PIPE—the protein-interaction prediction engine software developed at Carleton's Parallel Computing & Bioinformatics Research Lab—to search for protein complexes that enable thyroid hormones to control genes. This research is in tandem with a Health Canada toxicogenomics research and development project led by Carol Yauk to identify the downstream genomic impact of environmental toxins. Green expects to work with the Health Canada team during his sabbatical.

Such intensive research just isn't possible while carrying a teaching load, says Green. "This is a chance to be really inventive. You need to have

all the balls in the air at once. Without that, you can't get the big picture."

Green's final project could one day help detect or even predict threats to infants in neonatal intensive-care units. He hopes to create algorithms to detect artifacts, or non-meaningful elements, in data from standard medical equipment like blood-oxygen and ECG monitors. At present, much of this data is simply dumped because it is irrelevant to immediate monitoring needs. Green hopes that the data can be retrieved to flag illnesses like sepsis.

He will collaborate with Carolyn McGregor, the Canada Research Chair in health informatics at University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, and with Carleton PhD student Shermeed Nizami, MASc/04. Green also plans several weeks of travel with his young family. "We'll pull the kids out of school for a while. We don't think it's going to do them any harm to miss a few weeks." □

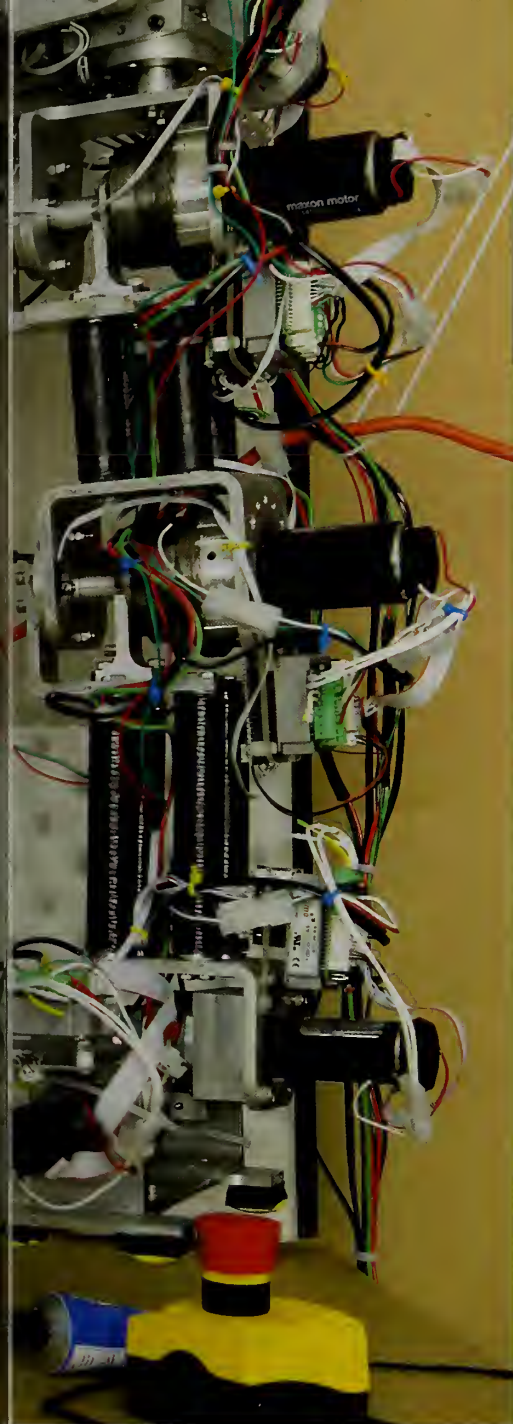


Items from Green's office reflect interests and research highlights, including his first journal paper on toxicogenomics from 10 years ago and another paper on a mass spectrometry project to identify proteins using the same processor found in a Sony Playstation 3. A model of a robotic version of a guide dog, which was developed by three undergraduate students under Green's supervision last year, sits next to a circuit board, a motorcycle and a "creepy face" that were bought in a Mexican market. The Albert Einstein action figure was a gift from one of Green's best friends upon earning his PhD.



Out of the Gait

Rehabilitation robots could help accident victims put their best feet forward



Walking robot ABL-B1 steps onto the page in this assemblage of Ahmadi's tools, plans and lifelike models. The dangling Pinocchio, a touch of quirkiness among the hardware, actually has an educational function. Ahmadi uses it to demonstrate a mass-spring system in his undergraduate course.

Mobility-challenged stroke and accident victims may one day sing the praises of robots, sabbaticals and Mojtaba Ahmadi.

Ahmadi, below, an associate professor in the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering, is spending his sabbatical, starting in July, on three robotic research projects that he and a team of graduate students have been developing in the university's Advanced Biomechanics and Locomotion (ABL) laboratory.

Two of the projects, Gait Enable (GE) and Virtual Gait Rehabilitation Robot (VIGRR), initiated at Carleton and funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, involve applying robotic and automation technologies to medical rehabilitation.

GE is a device that looks like an adult-scaled baby walker, similar to those little rigs that let a pre-toddler propel herself with her own feet while sitting. Designed to help patients safely relearn their walking gait, it was originally developed in non-robotic form by Ottawa's NeuroGym Technologies. However, NeuroGym's device is heavy and needs a physiotherapist or an assistant to push it so that the patient can concentrate on leg motion. Ahmadi and his team are outfitting this passive walker with computer-driven motors and controllers that will read a patient's attempt to change direction and automatically move the device.

"Graduate students are the engine for this," says Ahmadi, referring to several of his students, including PhD candidates Aliasgar Morbi, BEng/07, MASc/09, and Richard Beranek, BEng/09, who are extensively involved in GE's design and development. In less than a year, the GE system will be tested on humans and fine-tuned, after which the Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital in Ottawa may let some stroke patients use the device in a pilot study.

VIGRR is a pint-sized device to help patients relearn the skill of walking.

Attached to a physiotherapy bed, the shiny, motorized device lifts, extends and retracts a reclining patient's leg in a smooth, continuous motion. As the patient learns to move his leg autonomously, the device begins a simple support mechanism for the limb. "It emulates the [repetitive] work of a physiotherapist," says Ahmadi, freeing the therapist for other tasks.

Ahmadi also plans to get his third project, a robot named ABL-B1 (ABL comes from the lab name, B1 stands for biped one), into full stride over the next year. "We want to develop it into a robust walking robot," says Ahmadi of the short, torso-and-legs-only mechanism. It looks like a spunky, can-do little guy. Ahmadi hopes it will help researchers understand the complex process of human walking and, thanks to its detachable feet, be a testing ground for sophisticated, computer-controlled prostheses of the future. □



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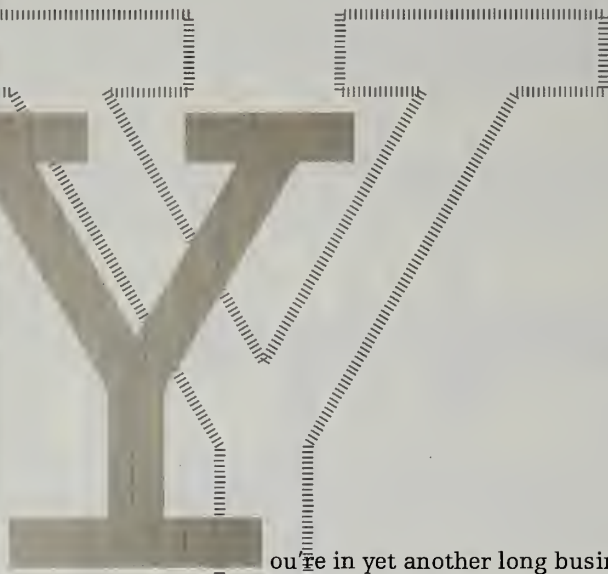


FACE TİME

INSTEAD OF TRAVELLING, CEOS AND BUSINESS LEADERS
COULD PILOT A REMOTE ROBOT BODY AND BE IN TWO
PLACES AT ONCE. ENTREPRENEUR, TINKERER AND
UNICYCLIST EXTRAORDINAIRE TREVOR BLACKWELL, BENG/92,
SAYS HIS TELEPRESENT ROBOTS COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE
WAY PEOPLE COMMUNICATE AND DO BUSINESS



WRITTEN BY TIM HORNYAK, MJ/97



you're in yet another long business meeting: this time it's a conference call with a group of colleagues overseas. After plenty of discussion and action items, it's finally time for a break. Your office mates move into the hallway to relax, chat and grab coffee—only something's different. This time the overseas colleagues join you—not in spirit, but in slender metal-plastic bodies on wheels. They're physically present in a pair of machines that can move and interact with everyone around them. They're telepresent robots.

Earlier this year in Nevada, a man in a porkpie hat strolled down Las Vegas Boulevard with a trio of robots in tow. The two-wheeled, pole-neck droids had big eyes and white bubble heads with protective headbands that stuck out a little like a fedora's brim, a visual echo of the man striding confidently before them—their maker, Trevor Blackwell, BEng/92.

Blackwell, 41, was on his way to the Consumer Electronics Show, the world's largest exhibition of high-tech gadgets and geek tools. He was there to show off the fruits of 10 years of research and experimentation on a nagging question: how can robots be integrated into our daily lives? His answer, at least in part, is QB, a remotely operated, self-balancing machine that's essentially a webcam on wheels. You can log into a QB from anywhere with an internet connection and be "telepresent" in your robot avatar, piloting it while you interact with people around it via audio and video links. Blackwell says QB users can avoid the cost and hassle of travel while interacting with friends and colleagues in a richer, more interactive fashion than phone calls or webcam chats allow.

Blackwell's company, Anybots, has just started shipping QBs at about US\$15,000 each. That's a lot of dough for a kind of tool that most people have never heard of. The concept itself is novel, even eccentric. Who would want to drive around a robot that looks like a floor lamp and speak through it like a ventriloquist? Lots of high-achieving business execs, it turns out. There's a large perceived need for skilled staff to be on-site somewhere several times a month, but not enough to justify a full-time transfer.

Anybots isn't the only telepresence company on the block: iRobot and VGo Communications are making inroads, but Anybots is one of the first to bring a product to market.

"This kind of robotics is at the edge of what's possible," says Blackwell in a large multi-purpose room in the Anybots office in Mountain View, Calif. "Our plan was to create a robot that was capable of doing things, and we knew that artificial intelligence software was going to be a long time before it could be very useful. We realized that to make robots do useful things, we would have to have people controlling them at least some of the time."

Anybots is located on a leafy road shared with other high-tech companies. I walked through the door and immediately got a demonstration of Blackwell's thinking. A QB robot rolled up to me in the lobby, and a woman's voice said, "You must be Tim. Welcome to Anybots. I'm Suzanne." The telepresent woman was Suzanne Brocato, an employee who robo-commutes to work every day and greets all visitors; she lives in Martinez, about 100 kilometres north of Mountain View, and goes to the office physically only once a month. Her photo was visible in a nine-centimetre screen in the QB's forehead, a way to identify her. When required, she can stream video of herself to the robot so that people can see her facial expressions. I followed her into another room, echoing the old protocol of ladies first. The room was full of mechanical hands and prototype robots, including a humanoid bot reclining in the sun like a Club Med guest. Blackwell was at his desk in the flesh, surrounded by work tables and tools, half-assembled robots and colleagues poring through code. Titles on the bookshelf ranged from mechanical engineering treatises to *Gray's Anatomy*. A line of QBs stood along the wall, and every so often one left its docking station to roam the office on its wi-fi signal, driven by someone, somewhere.

A stripped-down QB design has two main features: the head for interaction, with its display and eyes housing a five-megapixel video camera, and the base for up to 5.6 kilometres per hour of mobility. QB has a laser pointer for indicating objects and a light-detection and ranging system to avoid obstacles within two metres. But even if it rolls over your foot, it won't hurt too badly since it weighs only 16 kilograms. Its three microphones will focus on the loudest voice in a noisy room and convey the user's voice through a speaker. While it currently runs on wireless internet, Blackwell has successfully used a 4G phone signal to pilot a QB to a Mountain View coffee shop, where it bought a scone for a staff member.

There are only about 10 employees at Anybots, and I keep thinking about Microsoft and Apple in their early days. Some technology forecasters say robots will become as common as cars later this century, and even though robots remain very intellectually challenged when it comes to comprehending the world, some forward thinkers now position them where the personal computer industry was in the early 1980s, before it exploded into the mainstream.



Resembling a masculine version of Rosie, the maid from the animated sitcom *The Jetsons*, this Anybots helper, called Monty, replicates the intricate motions made by human hands, freeing up the flesh-and-blood members of the household to do other, less mundane tasks. In addition to clearing a table and loading a dishwasher, Monty can make coffee with a French press.

"When robots are possible, they're going to be a much better solution for doing some tasks than having a person do it," says Blackwell. "I've believed in the need for robots ever since I saw *Star Wars* as a kid."

True enough. Blackwell grew up in Saskatoon and built his first robot, a rudimentary arm and gripper, in the fourth grade. He remembers spending hours programming his beloved Apple II computer gripper in his parents' garage when the temperature outside was -20. He dreamed of living in Silicon Valley, the home of Apple, and programming became his passion. "I was in the computer club in high school and the chess club and the stereotype club," he says with a laugh.

Following an electrical engineering degree at Carleton, Blackwell did a year at Nortel in research and development and went on to do a PhD at Harvard. During his studies on high-speed networking, he joined a start-up in Cambridge, Mass., called Viaweb. With partners Paul Graham and Robert Morris, Blackwell created one of the first web-based applications—an e-commerce platform that allowed users to set up online stores with little programming expertise. When Yahoo! acquired Viaweb in a US\$49 million stock deal in 1998, Blackwell became a wealthy man and went on to co-found Y Combinator, a kind of meta-start-up that pairs fledgling companies with investors. Viaweb, meanwhile, became the Yahoo Store and is still used by millions.

Blackwell returned to his childhood fascination with robots in 2001 when he founded Anybots, dedicated to making useful anthropomorphic machines for home, office and factory. While many U.S. robot companies

like iRobot create military machines for the Department of Defense, Blackwell wanted nothing to do with weapons. "I estimated that half of the best robotics researchers either couldn't get security clearances or preferred not to work on military projects," he says. "By not taking military funding, we doubled the size of our talent pool."

Blackwell teamed up with enthusiasts like Scott Wiley, an industrial designer, and, after six years of research, created Monty, a 90-kilogram, 5'7" humanoid robot on

Features

Trevor Blackwell with a QB robot at the office of his company, Anybots, in Mountain View, Calif. The Carleton University engineering grad has always been a tinkerer and credits some of his early interest in futuristic technology to episodes of *Star Wars*. The robots on wheels allow people to communicate across continents and project some sense of human presence from afar.

two wheels that has arms and finely articulated fingers. Monty could do some impressive things, such as make coffee with a French press, clear a table and load a dishwasher, but it took about three times longer than a person. Monty's hands suffered with the work. "Fingers take lots of abuse, but robot fingers, unlike human ones, can't heal themselves," says Blackwell. "We found that we would have to replace the coding for the hands every 100 hours of operation."

Fallible fingers or not, Monty ended up pointing the way to the future of Anybots. The company was expecting a visit from an important client when Blackwell was stuck in Canada with an expired passport. He couldn't make the meeting in person, but the Anybots crew decided to rig a telepresence link through him for Monty. "I've never been very happy being a face on a laptop just sitting on a table," says Blackwell. "I logged into Monty, and from my hotel room in Vancouver, I was able to drive it around and host. You can't really welcome people and host them and give them a proper reception if you're on a webcam. I was really impressed by what was possible."

Blackwell experimented with over 20 robot prototypes on the road to finalizing a telepresence platform. He knew that appearance and quality were paramount—no one wanted an avatar that looked like a toy. Design collaborator Wiley, who worked on hardware for the International Space Station, says Blackwell's old-school engineering stubbornness was key in

coming up with a marketable product. "In the robo realm, he is an absolute visionary, with a relentless drive toward a future where human-helping robots are accessible to everyone," Wiley says. "He once made a bet with a co-worker. They agreed if Trevor won the bet, he could cut the other guy's car in half. Naturally, I would have assumed the slice would be crosswise, but no, Trevor insisted it be cut lengthwise through the engine block." Blackwell loves making bets on the future. In the name of "intellectual rigour," he has publicized some wild predictions on his website, including this nugget from July 2002: "Robot butlers, capable of cooking, cleaning, and interacting in fairly natural ways, will become available by 2010 and common by 2020."

Predictions or not, Blackwell's garage-style inventing has continued. One weekend he built a self-balancing scooter that was inspired by the Segway but constructed for less than half the cost by using parts he bought online. He later improved his "Segwell" so that it could travel faster than the Segway i-Series and could be summoned and driven with a laptop. It worked smoothly on the road, but Blackwell received an expletive-laden comment about being "too lazy to

walk." It inspired him to invent a vehicle that pays lip service to muscle power—an electric unicycle. He has been an avid unicyclist since the age of 35, even travelling 100 kilometres in one day in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but wanted to put his own spin on it. Weighing less than 14 kilograms and with a top speed of nearly 20 kilometres per hour, his Eunicycle is a computer-controlled wheel that can self-balance but requires the rider to do some work as well—you lean forward to accelerate and twist your upper body to steer—but pedalling isn't necessary. Blackwell spent \$1,500 on off-the-shelf components, and he's giving away the programming code on his website. Riding the Eunicycle gave him many bumps and scrapes, but it also taught him a lot about balance.

Telepresence robots are, after all, mobile computers. They're also Blackwell's biggest wager about the future. He won't say who Anybots' first customers will be but claims he is in talks with national-scale companies with thousands of locations and a limited pool of highly skilled workers. "Their biggest problem is that it's hard to have all the necessary skills in every location. What avatar robots will let them do is have a central pool of people

Photo: Tim Hornyak, MJ97



with a particular expertise that can deploy to any location for half an hour. Where it becomes essential is when you need a skill, but only 10 percent of the time." Possible QB scenarios spun by Blackwell include credit-rating specialists who could "robot in" to a store to meet certain customers or having the robots give a factory tour to potential clients.

Other companies, such as Willow Garage of Menlo Park, Calif., are getting into the telepresence robotics field, but how long it will be before telepresent robots become common is anybody's guess. "The thing that makes me concerned is the human interaction aspect, such as touch," says Sanford Dickert, a New York product-marketing specialist who has worked with Willow Garage's Texai avatars. How will robots bridge that element of the human-machine divide?

The great prognosticator won't make specific predictions of how avatars will become popular, but he's sure robots will play a much bigger part



"YOU CAN'T REALLY WELCOME PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM A PROPER RECEPTION IF YOU'RE ON A WEBCAM."



in our future. "I think the biggest lesson from history is that no one ever predicts what's coming correctly. People thought the web browser was going to be for downloading research papers from universities. So I think we haven't even thought of the huge application for robots yet." □

EYE, ROBOT

What's it like to see through avatar eyes?

Before visiting Anybots, I logged on to QB12 and began exploring the office. I used the arrow keys to pilot my droid around, enjoying the sensation of being

a floating eye. It felt like a combination of Google's Street View and a first-person shooter video game. Since the pole had been adjusted to meet my actual height of 6'2", I could sense it swaying back and forth somewhat as QB moved around, but it didn't make me too dizzy. I rolled up to a mirror and looked at my glowing camera eyes; I looked pale and stiff. With my mouse, I could direct QB's class II laser pointer, navigating was intuitive, and QB's obstacle-detection system kept me from banging into anything. Meanwhile, I could chat with Blackwell and Anybots staff just like with a webcam.

Did it feel like being there? The more I focused on the browser window, the more immersed I became, and I soon forgot where I was. Wild sci-fi scenarios like *Surrogates* and *Blade Runner* came to mind: what if QB were lifelike enough to pass for human? It's easy to imagine a nightmare of robots running wild in the future, so I was reassured by a display in the Anybots office. It was a quote by the father of robotics himself, Joseph Engelberger: "You end up with a tremendous respect for a human being if you're a roboticist."

—Tim Hornyak



There is something familiar about the QB robot. Parts of it resemble a household vacuum, but at the same time, it is slightly eerie. Will the robot "come alive" and start scooting around the room? Is it watching you? The invention is a boon to futurists but is likely to ignite the frenzy of conspiracy theorists and the healthy skepticism of future-phobics.

Read 'Em and Weep—or Laugh or Furrow Your Brow

A selection of recently published works by faculty and grads covers harrowing personal struggles, the joys of animal life, Bollywood and biotechnologies

SLOW AND STEADY

Franklin the Turtle creator turns her attention to other genres

WRITTEN BY THERESA WALLACE, MA/80

PORTRAIT BY DAN BERGERON, BA/02

What do you do after you've created a turtle named Franklin that has developed into 65 million children's books in dozens of languages and an animated television series that has also gone global? If you're Paulette Bourgeois, Franklin's creator, you keep on conjuring with the same imagination and tenacity that helped launch Franklin 25 years ago.


Bourgeois is in the midst of writing her first novel for adults. She has just finished the screenplay for a children's feature film that she describes as "an animated ecological fantasy that starts in the Amazon and winds up in the sewers of Paris." A few years ago her thesis for her Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver was a screenplay

that was immediately optioned by a small production company.

Going back to school to jump-start a new direction has worked extremely well for Bourgeois in the past. She was an occupational therapist when she enrolled in Carleton's School of Journalism in 1976. At the end of the one-year journalism program, she landed a summer job even before finishing her thesis and worked as a print and television reporter in Ottawa for a few years before moving to Toronto.

Her writing success takes her on many adventures—she recently spent a few weeks in Accra, Ghana, teaching creative writing classes for adults. But she says that despite decades of experience, writing itself is still terrifying.

"Writing is never easy, but once I get into the mind space where writing is all I'm doing and just push myself to put down word after word until one scene is done, then scene after scene until there's a finished draft, it's a good feeling."

These days Bourgeois, 60, kick-starts some of her writing at the Toronto Writers' Centre, where she rents a workspace alongside other wordsmiths. "We sometimes chat and compare notes. But we're all writers, so we mostly just put our heads down and write." 

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR

Baker's Daughter: The Story of a Long, Rich and Very Canadian Life

Grete Hale, BJ/54, LLD/09, daughter of the co-founder of Ottawa's giant Morrison Lamothe Bakery, recounts a busy life as a businesswoman, cultural supporter and philanthropist. 201 pages, Ottawa Citizen, \$20.

Dance Into Her Heart: What They Don't Tell You About Ballroom and Latin Dancing

Paul Boudreau, BA/78, recounts his own terpsichorean love affair from first sight through to a series of close encounters both on and off the dance floor. 312 pages, General Store Publishing, \$25.

Unbreakable: A Woman's Triumph Over Osteoporosis

Christine Thomas, BCom/81, a former government mediator, was diagnosed at the age of 42 with five spinal fractures due to unsuspected osteoporosis. She cuts through the medical jargon surrounding a condition that eventually leads to broken bones in 40 percent of North American women. 322 pages, Partner Publishing, \$19.

CULTURAL STUDIES

Dreaming in Canadian: South Asian Youth, Bollywood and Belonging

Faiza Hirji, MA/03, PhD/07, is an assistant professor of communication studies at McMaster University in Hamilton. Using material from lively first-person interviews, Hirji looks at the influence of Bollywood cinema on the identities of young Canadians of South Asian origin, who face competing cultural demands as they try to make sense of their changing identities. 248 pages, UBC Press, \$33.



**OUT OF HER SHELL**

Author Paulette Bourgeois wrote the last Franklin book in 2001, ending the series with the introduction of Harriet, Franklin's kid sister. The books have sold 65 million copies in 30 languages. The series proved to have legs. In the 25 years since its inception, it has spun off into a TV show and licensing deals for stuffed toys and lunch boxes.

Placing Memory and Remembering Place in Canada

James Opp, PhD/00, and John C. Walsh, both Carleton history professors, examine the impact of memory and place—main street, city square, rural landscape—as expressed in stories, photographs and the landscape itself—on ordinary Canadians. 330 pages, UBC Press, \$33.

Re-Imagining Ukrainian-Canadians: History, Politics, and Identity

Rhonda L. Hinder, an adjunct research professor at Carleton, and co-editor Jim Mochoruk examine the wide-ranging experiences of Ukrainian Canadians. Contributors include Jennifer Anderson, PhD/08;

Karen Gabert, MA/06; Suzanne Holyck Hunchuck, BA/91, MA/01; and Stacey Zembryzcki, PhD/07. 448 pages, University of Toronto Press, \$80.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Becoming Biosubjects: Bodies, Systems, Technologies

Neil Gerlach, PhD/96; Sheryl N. Hamilton, BAHons/94, MA/95; Rebecca Sullivan, MA/94; and Priscilla Walton, all current or former Carleton faculty members, explore the ways in which Canadian governments, media, courts and lay people are dealing with the challenges posed by biotechnologies. 224 pages, University of Toronto Press, \$25.

False Positive: Private Profit in Canada's Medical Laboratories

Ross Sutherland, MA/08, a registered nurse, presents the deleterious effects of for-profit medical laboratories on the Canadian health-

DREAMI in CANADA

South Asian Youth, Bollywood,



FAIZA HIRJI

care system. 128 pages, Fernwood Publishing, \$18.

FICTION

Animals

Don LePan, BAHons/75, a publisher in Peterborough, Ont., imagines a dystopian future where humans increasingly turn to their "mongrel" offspring as a source of protein. Nobel laureate J.M. Coetzee calls LePan's debut "a powerful piece of writing." 160 pages, Soft Skull Press, \$14.

Copernicus Avenue

Andrew J. Borkowski, BA/81, a former *Charlatan* arts reporter and president of Sock 'n' Buskin, presents a collection set in Toronto's Roncesvalles Village featuring the family of a post-Second World War Polish émigré. 240 pages, Cormorant Books, \$21.

Firewater Book Two: Insock

Dan Farrell, BA/74, presents more picaresque adventures of twins travelling the French canal system oblivious to the fact that

stolen nuclear weapons are hidden in their catamaran. 564 pages, Trafford Publishing, \$30.

The Goon

Jerrod Edson, BA/01, chronicles the post-hockey life of a womanizing, beer-swilling NHL enforcer in his fourth novel set in Saint John, N.B., 156 pages, Oberon Press, \$40.

Ground Manners

Cynthia D'Errico, MA/87, tells the story of a mother-and-

ANIMAL INSTINCTS

Jonathan Balcombe, MSc/87, formerly a senior research scientist with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine in Washington, D.C., now heads the Animal Studies Department at Humane Society University, also in Washington. His fourth book, *The Exultant Ark: A Pictorial Tour of Animal Pleasure*, shows a full range of animal experience through more than 132 images, including the following. (224 pages, University of California Press, \$35).

Domestic Pig

These piglets were born to one of several factory-farmed sows rescued from the 2008 Iowa floods by Farm Sanctuary, an organization that cares for neglected and abused farmed animals and conducts public-education campaigns. Prior to its rescue, the sow, stranded on a levee, made a nest out of whatever it could find.

Ring-Tailed Lemur

The sun is the energy foundation for practically all life on earth. And as any sunbather knows, it feels good, especially when you're chilly.

Gray-Headed Flying Fox

Like most mammals, young flying foxes are highly dependent on their mothers. They begin to fly at about four months and are weaned at six months. Individuals recognize one another, and they may form close friendships during their long lives (23 years or more). Wrestling and play-fighting are common components of their play. Here a mother and pup engage in a bout of play-fighting.



Photo: Siebhan McClary, Watkins Glen, New York



Photo: Steve Mandel, Berenty Reserve, Madagascar

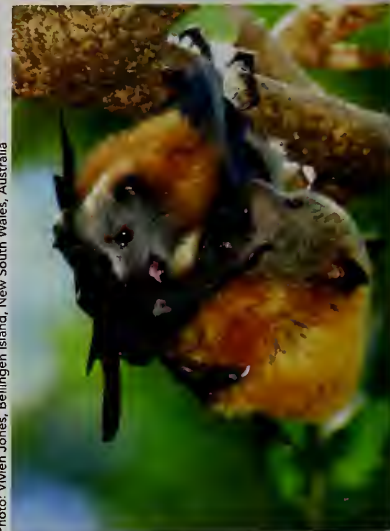


Photo: Vivien Jones, Bellingen Island, New South Wales, Australia

UN HAS
GOTTEN
WHERE I LIVE



CHRISTIAN MCPHERSON
OF SIX WAYS TO SUNDAY & THE CUBE PEOPLE

daughter team that manages a Quebec horse refuge and their battle to save a valuable mare from an unscrupulous businessman. 254 pages, XLibris, \$20.

Nightshade: A Sam Montcalm Mystery

Tom Henighan, who taught film and English at Carleton for 35 years, serves up a gumshoe thriller set in Quebec City and around Ottawa. "Lots of fun," says *The Globe and Mail*. 336 pages, Dundurn Press, \$11.99.

Sheilagh's Brush: A Novel

Maura Hanrahan, MA/86, explores the impact of a premature birth on the lives of the child's mother, Sheilagh, and her aunt, the outward-looking Claire, as they struggle with life in an isolated outpost in Depression-era Newfoundland. 162 pages, Inanna Publications, \$23.

Somewhere Between

Mark Robbescheuten, BA/99, writes this psychological thriller that focuses on a landscaping crew in upstate New York at a time when a serial killer is stalking their small town. 264 pages, Hilliard and Harris, \$21.

HISTORY

Divided Loyalties: The Liberal Party of Canada, 1984-2008

Brooke Jeffrey, PhD/84, a former research director for the federal Liberals, charts the decline of her fractious party from John Turner to Stéphane Dion. 672 pages, University of Toronto Press, \$45.

The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two

Veteran reporter and Carleton lecturer Mark Bourrie, MJ/04, sifts through attempts by the Mackenzie King government to suppress stories thought to place Canada's war effort at risk. The chief press censor, Wilf Eggleston, after developing a jaundiced view of reporting, went on to become the first chair of Carleton's journalism school. The book has a story of its own: the author found a new publisher after Key Porter dropped it—and a number of other titles—from its catalogue in a surprise restructuring in January. 304 pages, Douglas & McIntyre, \$33.

Fostering Nation? Canada Confronts Its History of Childhood Disadvantage

Veronica Strong-Boag, MA/71, a historian at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, examines the impact of a century of patchwork child-protection efforts in Canada on aboriginal and disabled children. 318 pages, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, \$85.

One Hundred Years of Social Work: A History of the Profession

in English Canada, 1900-2000

Thérèse Jennissen, MSW/77, and Colleen Lundy, MSW/79, Carleton social work professors, sum up nearly a decade of research and present the first comprehensive history of their field in Canada. 378 pages, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, \$39.

Songs of the Voyageurs

Emily-Jane Hills Orford, MA/97, writes about these early explorers known for singing their way across the country. 35 pages, Baico Publishing, \$10.

POETRY

The Sun Has Forgotten Where I Live

Ottawa writer Christian McPherson, BAHons/95, follows his sardonic novel, *The Cube People*, with a volume that has fellow poet Michael Dennis branding him "the devil child of Charles Bukowski and Michael Ondaatje." 134 pages, Now or Never Publishing, \$18.



COPERNICUS AVENUE

ANDREW J. BORKOWSKI

stories

Keeping Up With Your Classmates

Career highlights, reinventions, product launches, marriages and births.
What's your story? Email us at magazine_editor@carleton.ca

1970s

Bertram Cowan, BA/78, relocated to Victoria, B.C., to open the western office of security consultant firm Competitive Insights. He has also been appointed to the board of EmerGeo, which develops emergency management software.

Judith LaRocque, BAHons/79, MA/92, is ambassador and perma-

nent representative to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, France.

Gerry Lebovits, BA/76, was elected to the New York City Civil Court in November 2010. Judge Lebovits, a teaching assistant in Carleton's Department of Law from 1975 to 1979, has taught law in

New York for 22 years, currently as a lecturer-in-law at Columbia Law School and an adjunct professor of law at St. John's University School of Law.

Jack McAuley, BA/74, and his team at McAuley Financial took home the Professional Services Business of the Year award for 2011 from the Kanata Chamber of Commerce.

Dianne Parsonage, BAHons/70, MA/71, made a donation to Carleton in the name of her nephew, Michael Laidlaw, who died while serving in the Canadian navy. The money was used to establish a carillon performance studies program at the university.

RACHEL SIN, MArch/06, launched her Fall/Winter 2011 line of cocktail dresses at Ottawa Fashion Week in the spring. After graduating from Carleton, the architect changed her career direction when she discovered that her design skills were transferable. She sums up her view: "If architecture must always be functional, then fashion should always be wearable." Sin is as good as her word. Her ready-to-wear dresses are artfully structured, with subtle details. Why the switch from architecture? It's not a switch at all, Sin says. "I won't ever leave architecture. It will always be a part of me. I think of myself as an artist, and an artist can work at different scales and with different media. Why not build buildings *and* dress women?"



Photo: Luther Caverly



SEE RACHEL SIN'S
NEW LINE AT
CARLETON.CA/ALUMNI

DAVID MORLEY, BAHons/77, joined UNICEF Canada as president and CEO in March. He was previously president and CEO of Save the Children Canada. The history grad has spent his entire career helping make the world a better place for disadvantaged children. After graduating from Carleton, he went to volunteer with street children in Latin America. "I had thought I would come back to do a graduate degree. I never came back. The children just captivated me and directed me to what has ended up becoming a career." His work has taken him from forgotten outposts of poverty and despair to some of the world's major disasters and on to the corridors of power at the UN and Parliament Hill. Morley gave a powerful address to a group of graduates at Alumni Week in May. The celebration of ideas and alumni achievement takes place every spring.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THIS GREAT GRAD AT
CARLETON.CA/ALUMNI

Jim Sauer, BCom/72, recently retired from the RCMP after 36 years of service. He is now watching birds and butterflies full-time and doing personal income taxes part-time.

Beth Shepherd, BSc/74, BAHons/03, launched a small business with her husband. They designed and developed a premium made-in-Canada inflatable travel pillow. Find information at pillow-packers.com.

Rudolph Stussi, BAHons/71, BJ/73, recently exhibited a series of paintings called *City on Edge*, profiling Toronto, his current residence. Stussi teaches at the Centre for Creative Communications in the art and design programs at Centennial College.

1980s

Michael D'Amico, BA/84, is senior vice-president for human resources and organizational effectiveness at biofuel company Iogen in Ottawa.

He recently joined the board of directors at BioTalent Canada.

Andrea Grantham (nee Standish), BA/89, executive director of Physical and Health Education Canada, was named the 2010 Most Influential Woman in Sport and Physical Activity by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity.

Mark LaPrairie, BA/86, MA/94, has been appointed World Bank representative to the Kingdom of Bhutan.



Photo: Luther Caverly

Jim Marriott, BAHons/82, MA/85, was appointed chief of the Aviation Security Branch with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations specialized agency



Dog Daze: Mug With Your Mutt Contest Is a Pet Project for Sue Bird

Sue Bird, BA/94, started her career as a daily news photographer. Later she struck out on her own, launching a business called Urban Dog Photography that scratched out a niche market aimed at pet people.

Her focus is on the connection between humans and animals, and that bond is nowhere more apparent than in this portrait series. Bird started a look-alike contest for people and their dogs as a fundraiser for the Ottawa Humane Society. She set up her photography gear at the WAG Doggin' It Café in Ottawa South.

The contest brought out fervent dog people, including Tyra Jutai, upper left, who mimics the look of her five-year-old miniature Shetland sheepdog, Maddison L. Buddles. Patrizia Huot easily stepped into character while mimicking the side glance of her corgi pup, Luca. Bernie Limoges embodied the look of his two-year-old bulldog, O'Doyle, by sporting a beard trimmed to match the characteristics of his bulldog's jowls. Nicolas El-Hajj was in the store only to pick up dog food, but he returned later with his year-old chocolate pitbull, Gotti, to perform one of the best replications of the day.

Features

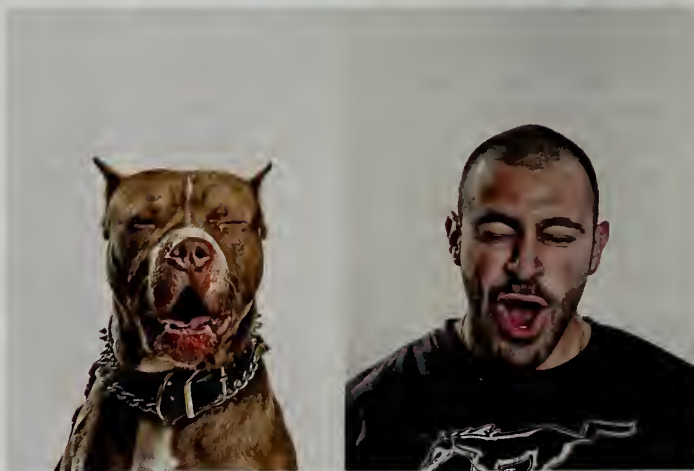
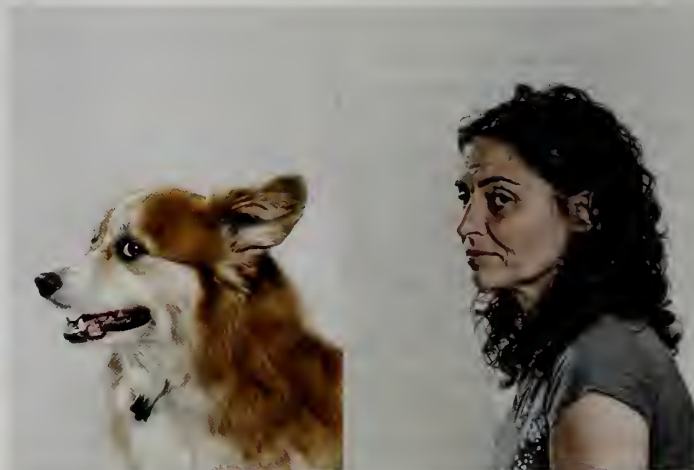
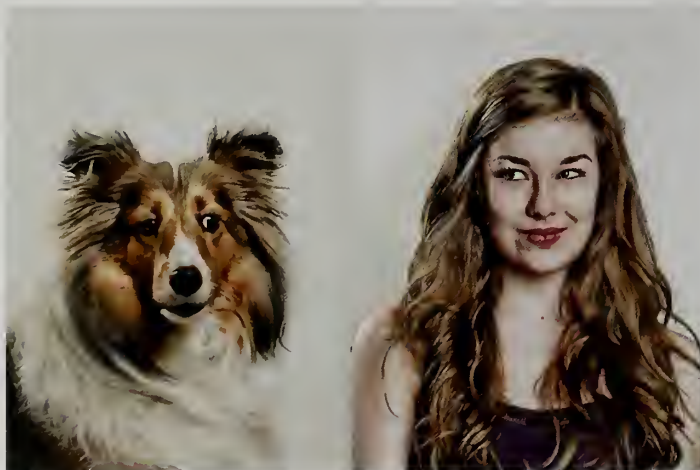
Photograph in session with Carleton art student Tyra Jutai. The student is a BA in Visual Arts, and the photo is a graduate from the university's Visual Arts program in 1992.


THE "MUG" SERIES
Sue Bird's Urban Dog Photography

Back to the future, the photo series began in 1992, when Bird was a student at Carleton University. She was a daily news photographer, and she was looking for a way to make a living. She started a business called Urban Dog Photography, and she started a look-alike contest for people and their dogs. The contest was a fundraiser for the Ottawa Humane Society. She set up her photography gear at the WAG Doggin' It Café in Ottawa South.

more, the series shows the strength of the human-animal bond, which, according to common knowledge, is thought to reduce loneliness. However, graduate work by Nikolina Duvall Antonacopoulos, BAHons/06, MA/09, found that the human-animal relationship is more complex than previously thought. "Being emotionally attached to your pet while, at the same time, having low levels of human social support predicts higher loneliness and depression scores," according to thesis supervisor Tim Pynchyl, MA/86, PhD/95 (who, coincidentally, leads another life as a dog musher with 11 huskies).

CU Magazine has explored the human-animal bond before. Regular readers will recall the portraits of academics in our "Deans & Dogs" feature, above, from the Spring 2010 issue, also shot by Sue Bird. See more of Bird's work at photobysuebird.com.





ADAM DE CAIRE, BA/06, is director of community relations and outreach in the office of Ottawa mayor Jim Watson, BA/83. He was actively involved in student politics at Carleton, and his commitment to public service continues in his career. "What I do is a catch-all," De Caire explains. "Last year our office received well over 40,000 phone calls and more than 100,000 emails in addition to printed letters. These are people reaching out to the mayor with interesting questions, concerns and comments. I love to hear them all and to get answers for the people who are looking for them."



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THIS GREAT GRAD AT
CARLETON.CA/ALUMNI

Photo: Luther Caverly

for civil aviation. Marriott leads the global aviation security, facilitation and machine-readable travel documents programs from the headquarters of ICAO in Montreal, Que.

■ **John A. McMunagle, BA/82**, was recently appointed to the Superior Court of Justice for the province of Ontario in the east region. Prior to his appointment, he enjoyed a successful 23-year career as a criminal defence lawyer. He remains happily married to **Anne Clark-McMunagle, BA/82**, and together they are raising three teenagers.

Denis Seguin, BArch/87, was awarded a certificate of achievement in February from the Ontario Heritage Trust for restoring several historic buildings in his hometown of Vankleek Hill, Ont. Seguin is senior vice-president at HOK architects in Ottawa.

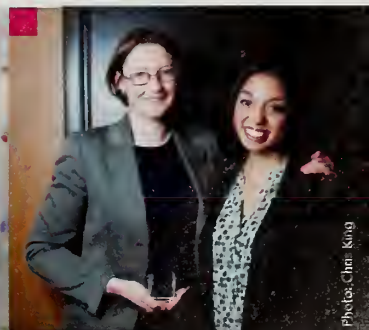


Photo: Chai King

Stacey Starkman (nee Greenman), BJ/81, was appointed communications manager for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in Toronto in the fall of 2010.

1990s

■ **Anne Lisbeth Kuirinlahti, BSW/95**, her husband Andy Chamard and daughter Ivy welcomed their son and little brother, John Alexander Campbell Chamard, on November 17, 2010. Alex was born at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alta.

■ **Erika Mayer, BArch/99, BA/00**, president of sustainable building firm Lunchbox Consulting, won Carleton's first Co-op Employer of the Year award in March.



Photo: CBC/Radio-Canada

JULIE NESRALLAH, BA/95, is host of *Tempo* on CBC Radio 2. The mezzo-soprano with the stunning voice has appeared on grand stages but doesn't shy away from more accessible forms of opera. Nesrallah has sung in several productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and, on July 15, will perform a barroom version of the *opéra comique* in the Velvet Room in Ottawa's Byward Market. Called *Carmen on Tap*, the story of the temperamental beauty takes place in an intimate venue with dinner-theatre-style seating. Tickets to the event, which benefits the School for Studies in Arts and Culture, are \$250. For more information, visit Carleton.ca/alumni/events.



Janice McDonald, BAHons/89, MA/92, president of Mymusic.com and co-founder of iStyle Originals, won a leadership award from Canadian Women in Communications in April.

Kathleen Mullen, MA/93, produced a documentary film called *Breathtaking*. It looks at the asbes-

tos industry and the role it played in the death of her father, who died of mesothelioma. See a trailer at kathleenmullen.com/breathtaking.

Rebecca Page, BA/95, expanded her household management company, Concierge Home Services, this year by opening another franchise in the Ottawa area. The

company was recently granted the Franchisees' Choice Designation by the Canadian Franchise Association.

Chris Robinson, BAHons/94, wrote the script for the animated short *The Lipsett Diaries*, which won a Genie Award in March.

2000s

Rebecca Brunette, BID/10, and **Michael Manolis Vranas, BID/09**, were married in September 2010. The couple resides in Toronto.

Bill Cooney, BAHons/03, was made a staff producer with the CBC's Sports Content Unit in February 2011.

■ **Cosmin Coltea, BA/08, MA/11**, won Carleton University's inaugural Nicol Challenge, which came with a \$5,000 prize. His project encouraged interaction between autistic children and family dogs in an effort to enhance social behaviour.



■ **Nicole Farough, BIB/03**, and **Chris Hughes, BIB/03**, welcomed their son, Marlon Robert Hughes, on July 8, 2010, in Ottawa. Marlon is younger brother to Desmond Christopher.

Jeremy Hanson-Finger, BA-Hons/09, MA/10, launched *Dragnet*, a literary journal, in February. It is available at magazine retailers and online at dragnetmag.net.

■ **Jay Jolliffe, BAHons/07**, and **Colin Maciver, BA/10**, met at Carleton and formed 84.85, a left-field rap group. The duo, now in Toronto, released their *Good Problems*

EP in April. The album combines the percussive breaks of hip hop, the reverberant sub-frequencies of dubstep and the melodic curves of deep house music.

■ **Terra Kitzul, BArch/02**, and **Ryan Arens** were married in October 2010 in Chatham, Ont., where the couple resides. Kitzul works at Jordan & Cook Architect in Chatham.

Christopher Kutarna, BCom/00, launched *Monikerwear.com*, maker of custom dress shirts for men. The company gives half of its profits to disadvantaged children in developing countries.

Janet Mrenica, MA/04, received her audit committee certification from the Directors College at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. She is director of financial planning and reporting in the Finance Directorate of Environment Canada in Ottawa.

■ **Erin Richards, BSW/07, MSW/09**, and **Nicholas Sauriol, MEng/10**, announce the recent arrival of their daughter, Katie. Richards is president of the social work chapter of the Carleton University Alumni Association and volunteer coordinator at the Ottawa Humane Society.



IN MEMORIAM

Roberto Miranda, MA/98, was a Spanish TA, and I was fortunate to be in his classes. As a political refugee from Guatemala, Roberto survived unbelievable turmoil. As a professor, Roberto was hilarious and inspirational. As a school-teacher, I can only hope to model myself after Roberto. A Carleton friend emailed me to tell me that Roberto died of cancer in February. I believe this brief tribute represents the feelings of many of his former students. Roberto Miranda was an outstanding human being, and the world is a better place for having had him in it.

Kate Hiscott-Phelan, BHum/00



To make a donation in honour of Roberto Miranda, visit carleton.ca/giving.

Elizabeth Alexander, BCom/67
Allan Ashbrook, BSc/65, PhD/69
Wallace Barnes, BA/90
Francis Bowie, BSc/50
Gary Boyd, BSc/57
Joseph Bray, DPA/68, MA/72
Katharine Bryant, BA/70
Alan Charman, BCom/83
Gordon Clarey, BCom/48
Lynda Copeman, MA/84
Carmen Desbarats, BA/50
Sophie De Villers, MA/88
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In the Swim of Things

Industrial designer Teddy Luong gets a head start on his career with the Fishhotel, his first commercially produced design for housewares company Umbra

WRITTEN BY LAURA BYRNE PAQUET, BJ/87 | PORTRAIT BY LUTHER CAVERLY

Life in a fishbowl is a common metaphor for lack of privacy. But what if a goldfish had the same right to personal space that humans enjoy?

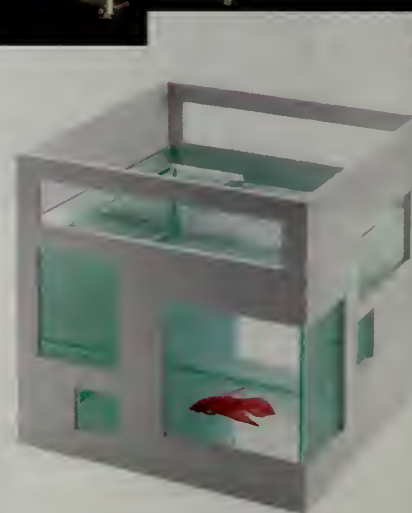
That question prompted Teddy Luong, BID/11—then a second-year student—to design the Fishhotel: a square glass bowl inside a frame of white plastic. Windows in the plastic give people glimpses of the aquatic residents, but there are also corners where the fish can escape the maddening crowds.

Luong, 23, created the design for a class assignment, inspired by a magazine photo of a beautiful fishbowl. “The project was to design a novel item that organized clutter or displayed a household item,” he explains.

He entered the design in the 2009 Build a Better Competition sponsored by Umbra, a Canadian company known for sleek housewares. It took top honors, and Umbra now sells stackable Fishhotels for \$30 each at its stores and through affiliated housewares retailers. The condoesque fishbowl was Luong’s

first commercially produced design. “It was exciting to see it in stores and in the press,” he says. He later interned at office furniture design company Teknion before graduating in June.

He was drawn to the School of Industrial Design by its co-op program, and he says his Carleton education prepared him to adapt to this rapidly evolving field. “Things are always changing, especially in design—there are always new technologies, new techniques,” he says. “What I really learned was how to learn.” ☐



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